

## BILLS TO CHECK RENT GOUGERS IN DESPITE SWEET

Speaker in Stormy Scene With  
Lockwood Threatens Whole  
Programme.

HE WANTED ALL CREDIT.

Real Estate Men Oppose All  
but Two of the Nine  
Measures.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

ALBANY, March 18.—A large attendance is looked for on next Tuesday afternoon when the hearing is held on the rent bills presented yesterday to both Houses by the Lockwood Committee on Housing, and it is expected that there will be protests against the proposed changes in the existing laws, some of which are radical.

"But," said one of the committee to-day, "we had to be radical because of the strenuous situation that confronts us. The committee believes it has adequately covered the situation. Not less than seventy-one bills were before us for consideration and out of this mass we prepared the measures we have submitted."

"The bills now before the Legislature must be considered as one measure, for what may be lacking in one will be found taken care of in another."

"Relief for the tenant lies to a great extent in his own hands. The trouble has been that tenants have overbid one another for apartments, stores and offices. We found in our investigation that persons desiring apartments would go to janitors and offer all kinds of bonuses in addition to a fast increase in the rent. A combine of tenants, all acting in good faith, would certainly help to solve this problem."

Edward P. Doyle, Chairman of the Budget Committee of the Real Estate Board of New York, takes issue with the Lockwood committee and sees good in only two of the bills. Mr. Doyle favors the passage of laws preventing savings banks and life insurance companies from depositing their moneys in national or State banks which loan money on call or Stock Exchange securities.

"Institutions which should loan on real estate to the limit," he says, "are now placing funds with institutions which specialize in call loans in Wall Street." Another remedy which Mr. Doyle suggests is the passage of an industrial commission bill based on the Kansas law, making lockouts and strikes impossible.

"The bills submitted by the Housing Committee," said Mr. Doyle to-day, "will afford no adequate solution of the unsatisfactory situation in New York. Only two have merit. One is that which makes a monthly tenant a statutory lessee for a year. The other is the plan to exempt mortgages up to \$40,000 from the income tax."

"New York City alone needs 160,000 new apartments. With bricklayers on a strike, with the Allied Trades Council insisting that steel frames erected by non-union labor be torn down, and with the stevedores' strike keeping all building materials out of New York City, building new apartments is impossible. If such conditions continue will men invest money in building?"

"Help building, and put the least possible difficulties in the way of ownership, and the law of supply and demand will soon settle the whole question."

Senator Barney Downing is strong for the clause in the consolidated measure which repeals the Ottinger act eliminating verbal leases. This law, according to the Senator, was responsible, more than any other agency, for the regime of rent profiteering, for it allowed the landlord to kick out a month-to-month tenant any time he refused to pay more rent. Now a month-to-month tenant will enjoy the privileges of one with a year's lease.

**SWEET THREATENS TO KILL  
ANTI-RENT GOUGING BILLS.**

Real estate interests opposed to the anti-rent gouging bills are cheered by a threat said to have been made by Speaker Sweet to kill the whole anti-rent gouging programme because he wanted all the credit for such measures and "some one had stolen from him." Sweet, it is rumored, intends to run for Governor this fall on the Republican ticket, and it is suggested that he figured on getting the support of the up-State "drys" by his opposition to beer, and then offset the enmity of city "wets" by claiming credit for saving them from rent profiteers.

Anyway, he summoned Senator Charles C. Lockwood, Republican, of Brooklyn, to his room yesterday and undertook to ensure him for having "stolen" his anti-rent profiteering bills.

"Sweet," said Senator Lockwood, following his interview with the Speaker, "was indignant because he had not been given credit for the preparation of the Housing Committee's bills and threatened to kill them. They are not my bills, as I pointed out to him. I told him they were the Housing Committee's bills and not introduced to promote any

## Ellen Terry, the Famed Actress, Photographed on 72d Birthday



## TWO OF SHEVLIN'S DRY AGENTS HELD ON GRAFT CHARGE

Accused of Extorting Money  
From Saloon Men—Mc-  
Mullin in Court To-day.

James S. Shevlin, Supervising Prohibition Enforcement Agent for this district, found two more of his subordinates in trouble this morning. This time the charge is grafting. In the earlier case, that of Stewart McMullin, murder is the charge.

The growing number of complaints gives new impetus to the question

person's political fortunes, but rather to solve a very serious situation.

"Sweet's idea of solving the great housing problem is to increase the legal rate of interest on mortgage loans from 6 per cent. to 9 per cent. Such a rate, if enacted into our law, would be nothing short of legalized usury, and I for one would not stand for it. And I don't think a corporal's guard could be mustered behind such an absurd proposition."

He said that when he entered Sweet's office the Speaker demanded to know why he had stolen the Speaker's ideas. Lockwood said Sweet contended he had the Legislative Bill Drafting Committee working for the last two weeks on the bills "stolen" by the Housing Committee. Then, according to Lockwood, this colloquy ensued:

Lockwood—Why, the Housing Committee has had the bill draughting committee working on these bills for months.

The Speaker—I made public my ideas on this a week ago. The Senate can't slight me. Jimmy Walker (Democratic Senate Leader) and Henry Walters (Republican Senate Leader) can't ignore me.

Lockwood—No one has slighted you. No one has ignored you. We invited you to attend the conferences on four different occasions. I myself invited you twice and you did not come.

The Speaker summoned to his room later all Assemblymen who introduced bills intended to lower rents. Following this Assemblyman Franklin S. Judson, Chairman of the Committee on Taxation, introduced four of the eight bills to curb the rapacity of landlords. These bills, when presented in the Senate, were marked as having been introduced by the Housing Committee. Judson introduced them in the Lower House over his own signature.

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## SEVENTH AV. BUSES RUN BY CITY—HINT AT CAR INQUIRY

New York Railway Co. Col-  
lapse Laid to High Rentals  
for Its Leased Lines.

T. Wood London, Deputy Commissioner of Accounts, told the Board of Estimate at the traction inquiry to-day, that the New York Railway Company paid \$15,363,000 in rentals for its leased lines from Jan. 1, 1915 to Dec. 31, 1919, and that this financial burden was the principal cause of the company's collapse. Neither the company nor the lessees would consent to a decrease in the rentals, Mr. London said.

Comptroller Craig requested that data be distributed to show traffic on the New York Railway lines in the event the city contemplated universal operation of all subway, elevated and surface, at a uniform fare. In approaching such a condition the Comptroller explained it would be necessary to have available statistics to indicate how the traffic is diverted. Corporation Counsel Burr said this information would be forthcoming.

Testimony indicated that only the cross-town lines of the New York Railway are essential transportation systems and that the longitudinal lines could be dispensed with.

Comptroller Craig intimated that the city has in mind the operation of a municipal bus system along the through lines now used by the New York Railway Company. This would include the Broadway and Seventh Avenue line now said to be operated at a financial loss and even with an 8-cent fare would not be profitable.

Conditions responsible for the present plight of the company were laid by the witness to subways and elevated systems which are diverting traffic from the surface line; increased use of streets; decrease of speed adding to the cost, use of au-

tomobiles and increased cost of operation. While the New York Railway Company was not represented by counsel, Job E. Hedges, receiver, assured Corporation Counsel Burr that the company would furnish all data required. James W. Reed, Board of Estimate engineer read into the record figures showing the appraised value of the four car lines owned outright by the New York Railway Company, according to Stone & Webster, accountants, is \$5,936,426. The outstanding bond obligations amount to \$3,850,000, showing that the appraised value is only 50 per cent. of the outstanding obligations. The total funded debt of the entire system is \$68,523,000 whereas the total appraised is \$28,220,374.

Two men who described themselves as William A. Smith, No. 91 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, and John Hill, No. 459 Evergreen Avenue, Ridgewood. They were locked up at the Long Island City Police Station on charges of extortion, and Shevlin sent Deputy Enforcement Agent Allen to Brooklyn to investigate.

United States District Attorney Ross induced the police to hand the men over to the Federal authorities. Ross said that if they were held as prisoners of the State it would be his duty to defend them, but that as Federal prisoners he could prosecute them and would.

Ross said the prisoners were identified by three saloon keepers. Peter Sweet, No. 129 Montgomery Avenue, Laurel Hill, who said he paid \$10; Tony Petraszka, No. 82 Flushing Avenue, Long Island City, who said he paid \$20, and Leonard Habasinski, of Clifton and Borden Avenues, Long Island City, who said he paid \$5. The complaint by Sweet, Mr. Ross said, is strengthened by the testimony of Mrs. Sweet, who said she saw the money change hands.

McMullin, the ex-convict and prohibition agent who killed Harry Carlton a week ago in a whiskey raid, shooting him in the back of the head, was arraigned before Judge Malone in the Court of General Sessions to-day on an indictment charging first degree murder.

At McMullin's arraignment Assistant United States District Attorney James S. Johnson told Judge Malone that United States Attorney F. G. Caffey had "sent him to look out for the interests of the prisoner."

"Then I understand that the accused is represented by Mr. Caffey," said Judge Malone.

"That is right," replied Johnson, and Mr. Caffey's name was entered on the record as McMullin's attorney.

**A Correction for Capt. Haynes.**  
The Evening World on March 11 published a report that Supreme Court Justice Finch had granted a divorce to Mrs. Jewell Haynes against Capt. George McLeod Haynes, formerly of the British Army. This was an error which The Evening World wishes to correct in fairness to all concerned. No divorce action has been brought by either of the parties above named against the other, although Mrs. Haynes has brought an action for separation against Capt. Haynes, which is still pending. She is also plaintiff in a suit against Ethel Jackson Lockwood for alleged alienation of her husband's affections. The divorce granted by Justice Finch on March 11 was in an action brought by Ruth M. Haynes against George H. Haynes. It was an interlocutory judgment confirming the report of a referee.

## THIEVES ROB LITTLE MARGARET HEAGNEY AFTER BEATING HER



Margaret Heagney, a twelve-year-old school girl lay in her bed at her home, No. 436 West 26th Street last night after a strenuous St. Patrick's Day celebration, when she saw two young men in cape and overcoat enter her room quietly. She thought they were her brother and a friend trying to scare her as she lay still. They went to the bureau drawer, opened it, and when she heard the clank of pennies she knew they were

after her savings bank, which contained \$1.75.

"Leave my bank alone!" she screamed, jumping up. One of the men ran toward her and hit her over the head, inflicting a scalp wound an inch long and she fell dazed as the thieves ran away with her savings of two years, with which she intended buying things for her vacation this summer.

Men and women attending a party in an apartment below came up, after hearing the noise, and called a doctor who said the girl will recover.

Margaret's parents had gone to the movies a few moments before the thieves entered. She has no idea who the burglars were, but she is certain they are familiar with the apartment because they went straight for her money.

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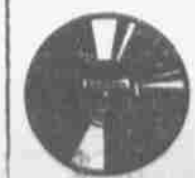
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